

Message Text

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43

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2640

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUWAIT 1422

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR,KU, SA, AG, IZ, QA, BA, TC

SUBJECT: KUWAITI RELATIONS WITH OTHER ARAB COUNTRIES

1. IN TOUR D'HORIZON MARCH 30 WITH DCM, MUSTAFA ABDUL SAMED, ACTING CHIEF POLITICAL DEPARTMENT AND HEAD ARAB SECTION GOK MINISTRY FOREIGN AFFAIRS, MADE FOLLOWING OBSERVATIONS CONCERNING KUWAITI RELATIONS WITH ARAB NEIGHBORS:

A) PLANNED APRIL 5 VISIT TO KUWAIT ALGERIAN PRESIDENT BOUDMEDIENE CANCELLED (ALONG WITH VISITS OF PRESIDENTS OF MALI, GABON AND RUMANIA) BUT WILL BE RESCHEDULED AT EARLY TIME FOLLOWING EXPIRATION FORTY-DAY PERIOD MOURNING FOR LATE KING FEISAL. GOK HAS REASON BELIEVE HE WOULD BE WILLING ATTEMPT MEDIATE KUWAIT/IRAQ BORDER
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DISPUTE AND WOULD WELCOME SUCH OFFER.

B) GOK UNDERSTANDS SUADI PRINCE FAHD HAS CANCELLED
PLANNED VISIT IRAQ (AND POSSIBLY KUWAIT) IN EARLY APRIL.

C) GOK PLEASED WITH OFF-SHORE BOUNDARY DISCUSSIONS WITH SAG
AND HOPEFUL OUTSTANDING ISSUES WILL BE RESOLVED. SAG/GOK
RELATIONS SHOULD "PROSPER" WITH ADVENT NEW SAUDI REGIME.

D) PLANS ARE PROCEEDING FOR VISIT BY KUWAITI CROWN PRINCE/
PRIME MINISTER DURING CURRENT YEAR TO BAHRAIN, ABU DHABI AND,
PERHAPS, QATAR.

E) GOK PERCEIVES NO EARLY CHANGE IN ATTITUDE AND POLICIES PDRY.

F) KUWAIT, OF NECESSITY, MUST REMAIN "SUSPICIOUS AND VIGILANT"
RE IRAQ INTENTIONS BUT IS HEARTENED BY RECENT MOVE TOWARDS DETENTE
WITH IRAN.

G) GOK HAS RECEIVED NO INVITATIONS FROM EGYPT TO PARTICIPATE IN
ARAB SUMMIT OR OTHER MEETINGS TO DISCUSS ISRAELI PROBLEM. MATTER
WILL BE CONSIDERED AT REGULARLY SCHEDULED ARAB SUMMIT TO BE HELD
IN MOGADISCIO. RECENT VISIT GOK FINANCE MINISTER ATEEQI TO CAIRO
HAS IMPROVED PROSPECTS FOR MEANINGFUL ECONOMIC COOPERATION WITH
EGYPT.

2. SAMED CLAIMED HE UNINFORMED RE POSSIBLE GOK CON-
SULTATIONS WITH OTHER ARAB OIL PRODUCING COUNTRIES RE PROPOSED
PRODUCER/CONSUMER MEETINGS. EXPRESSED KEEN INTEREST IN EVENTS
IN SOUTH EAST ASIA, PREDICTING BOTH CAMBODIA AND SOUTH
VIETNAM WOULD FALL TO COMMUNISTS. HE DID NOT SEEM PERTURBED.

3. COMMENT: SAMED IS A MATURE AND CAREFUL DIPLOMAT WHO HAS
PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY WITHIN THE MINISTRY FOR ARAB AFFAIRS. HIS
CANDOR IN DISCUSSING CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS WAS BOTH SURPRISING
AND UNCHARACTERISTIC. ALTHOUGH HE MEETS FREQUENTLY WITH THE
FOREIGN MINISTER AND UNDER SECRETARY, HIS VIEWS DON'T NECESSARILY
REFLECT THE ATTITUDE OF EITHER. HIS SUGGESTION THAT THE GOK WAS
"HEARTENED" BY MOVEMENT TOWARDS AN IRAQI/IRANIAN DETENTE
IS NOT SHARED BY MANY OF HIS COLLEAGUES AND OTHERS IN KUWAIT WHO
FEAR THAT RESOLUTION OF IRAQ'S IRANIAN PROBLEM IS CERTAIN TO RESULT
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IN INCREASED PRESSURE ON KUWAIT. NEVERTHELESS SAMED VIEW IS
REPRESENTATIVE OF GROWING NUMBER OF COMPETENT KUWAITI OFFICIALS AT
WORKING LEVELS OF GOK.
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